

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:

MONTH

YEAR

April

2004

SIGNATURE

John Gordon

Meteorologist-in-Charge

DATE

May 2, 2004

TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2
 NOAA / National Weather Service
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 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

☒ No flood stages were reached in this HSA for the month above.

April was a month of "feast or famine" in the rainfall department. Some locations in the Huntsville metro area saw quite high rainfall totals, as a heavy downpour came through in the middle of the month. But elsewhere...April rainfall totals were rather low. Normal April rainfall is generally between four and five inches. While a few spots got into this range, most did not. And virtually no one was above normal.

WFO Huntsville issued a drought statement on April 29th for DeKalb County in Northeast Alabama. The national Drought Monitor indicated abnormally dry conditions in DeKalb County on April 27th. A check of rainfall totals bears this out, with most locations in that area receiving only 1 to 2 inches in April, and between 5 and 6 inches for March and April combined. Valley Head, in DeKalb County, has reported below normal rainfall every month since October 2003, and is over ten inches below normal since October 1. There appeared to be no major impacts from the dry conditions, but if they persist or worsen, impacts during the summer could be increased.

Rivers were near base flow for the entire month, except for some rises following rain events near the middle of the month, and again late in the month. The rises were minor, though, and there was certainly no threat of flooding.

WFO Huntsville also began warning operations on a new river forecast point on April 1st, on the Big Nance Creek near Courtland. This new point, forecasted by the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center, was created in response to emergency management requests, because the creek frequently floods and has flooded significantly twice in the last year. The Big Nance will likely be one of our most active points. The addition of the Courtland point brings our total number of service forecast points to six.

Some rainfall totals for April 2004...

(Reminder: Normal rainfall is 4-5 inches for April; 10-12 inches for March & April combined)

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>April Total</u>	<u>March & April Total</u>
Albertville	Marshall	2.19	5.44
Athens	Limestone	4.61	9.89
Cullman	Cullman	1.72	5.08
Cherokee	Colbert	3.09	8.22
Chase	Madison	5.16	8.56
Dime	Franklin AL	2.16	7.43
Flat Rock	Jackson	1.82	7.18
Fayetteville	Lincoln	4.29	10.18
Guntersville	Marshall	1.53	5.34
Grove Oak	De Kalb	1.48	5.15
Lynchburg	Moore	4.45	10.16
North Huntsville	Madison	4.82	10.35
Rainsville	De Kalb	1.55	4.04
Oakland	Lauderdale	2.50	8.51

Note to users: Rainfall totals from across the WFO Huntsville service area for April will be posted during the month of May on our website at <http://www.srh.weather.gov/hun/>. Then click on "Tennessee Valley" in the climate section.

Non-Routine Products issued:

FLW:	0
FLS:	0
RVS:	0
ESF:	1
FFW:	0
FFS:	0
FFA:	0

Routine Products issued:

RVA:	30
RVD:	30
OSO:	30

-Jason Elliott

-HPM, WFO Huntsville AL